

Statement from the Information Commission's Office

The move from the collection of aggregate data to individualised data and the growing trend towards data linkage of administrative data has raised understandable concerns with those asked to provide the data. From the earliest days of this shift in statistical data collection, the advice and guidance of the ICO has been sought and well received by Scottish Government analysts in an effort to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The ICO has provided guidance in many data linkage projects, establishing the need for Privacy Impact Assessments to provide evidence-based decision-making which takes account of privacy risk through the implementation of privacy solutions. In this project, LDSS has worked closely with Scottish Government analysts and has benefited from ICO input to ensure that the identification, release and subsequent use of the data comply with the requirements of data protection.

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